

MORE PAGES OF STORIES

A FAWCETT PUBLICATION

JULY NO. 146



CAPTAIN MARVEL



ADVENTURES



WEIRD! A man becomes an insect in THE UNHOLY SPIDER!



AMAZING! The strange terror of THE MIRAGE MENACE!

also

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST CIRCUS!

ASTOUNDING! Captain Marvel becomes transparent in THE MYSTERY OF THE FIRST PEOPLE!

THE SPACE JUNKMAN

A Jon Jarl Adventure

By Eando Binder



SPEEDING along past the asteroids, Lieutenant Jon Jarl of the Space Police was at ease. It was good to relax for a change and read the latest best seller—*STARS AWAY!* But just as Jon got into the first chapter, his radar alarm rang.

Jon glanced at the screen, let out a yelp, and clawed at his controls, swerving his ship aside. Radar warned you of any obstacle in space ahead, but when you were whizzing along at the rate of one hundred miles a second, it was sometimes up and tuck avoiding collision.

Jon's ship barely missed the object dead ahead. It was a huge hulk of a derelict space ship, dark and silent, smashed open by a meteor at some previous time. Space ship wrecks like that, floating in the space lanes, were a big hazard. Jon circled back to the derelict and radioed headquarters.

"Calling headquarters," he reported. "The *Starship*, an old cargo ship missing in space since last year, is floating near the asteroids, wrecked. Have it picked up and towed away."

"That won't be necessary, son," cut in another radio voice. "I'll clear that wreck away right now."

Jon stared out of his windshield in surprise, seeing the other rocket ship coming up. It was a big powerful tug. It angled up close to the wreck with a huge electromagnet at its tail, dangling at the end of a long cable. Drawn by magnetism, the wreck glued itself to the electromagnet, and then the tug started towing it away.

Jon saw the name on the side of the tug—**ANDY ORTMAN, SPACE JUNKMAN**.

Still amazed, Jon cancelled his call to HQ and contacted the tug. "Space Junkman? That's a new one I never heard of you before."

"New business, son," came back in drawling tones. "And a pretty good one. Space is full of old wrecks, you know. Lots of big smashed

ships, all made of iron and other metals. I tow them in for scrap metal, which sells good."

"But who gave you the right?" Jon began.

"Don't worry," came the answer. "I'm not breaking the law. I have a junkman's license from the Space Clearance Bureau. They're only too glad to let me haul away all these old junky derelicts cluttering up space. Any more questions, son?"

"No," Jon said, "but I'd like to see your place if I may. I'll follow you in, just out of curiosity."

Soon, the tug turned down toward an asteroid. At five hundred feet, the junkman simply turned off his electroregiment. The space wreck then dropped down to the surface with a loud crash.

Jon stared. The whole surface of the asteroid below for miles was littered with heaps of other junk. A jumble of dozens of space ship wrecks were down there. It was a vast junkyard. Thousands of tons of scrap metal. Yes, it must be a good business!

Jon landed, wanting to meet this curious new junkman of space. He was a little old guy, puffing a stubby pipe, dressed in ragged clothes, looking like any slovenly junkman of any time. They never seemed to change. He gave a gap-toothed grin to Jon.

"I used to be a junk dealer on Earth," he confided. "When business slowed down, I got me the big idea of hauling in all the junk in space. Keeps me busy, but I'm not complaining. I'm making good money."

"You're getting rich—just from junk?" Jon asked.

"Well, not just that," confessed Andy Ortmann, chewing on something that bulged in his cheek. "You see, son, some of those cargo ships carry valuable stuff. Most of it gets smashed or lost in space, but some I can salvage. Once I even found a couple of kegs of gold being

(Continued on inside back cover)



CAPT. MARVEL ADVENTURES

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contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment.

W. E. Crowley, Jr. President

CAPTAIN MARVEL

THE MIRAGE MENACE

PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST USELESS THINGS IN THE WORLD
IS A MIRAGE, WHICH IS AN OPTICAL ILLUSION OR PHANTOM
IMAGE CAST LONG DISTANCES THROUGH DISTORTED LAYERS
OF ATMOSPHERE. BUT THIS PHENOMENON IS NOT USELESS IN
THE HANDS OF A CUNNING MASTERMIND! EVEN CAPTAIN MARVEL,
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, IS BESIEGED AND BAF-
FLED WHEN HE TRIES TO SMASH THE MIGHTY MIRAGE MENACE!

WHENEVER BILLY BATSON,
FAMOUS BOY NEWSCASTER,
SAYS THE WORD "SHAZAM!" HE
IS MIRACULOUSLY ENDUED
INTO POWERFUL CAPTAIN
MARVEL, THE WORLD'S
MIGHTIEST MORTAL WHO
COMBINES IN HIS MIGHTY
PERSONIC THE POWERS OF
SIX OF THE MIGHTIEST
HEROES OF ALL
TIME!



TRY TO SAVE
THE TOWN AND
SMASH THE
METEOR! —
HOLY MOLY! I CAN'T
STOP IT!

ONLY A
MIRAGE
METEOR-SIG
HERO PLAYS THE
POOL! WHAT
A LAUGH!
HA HA HA HA!



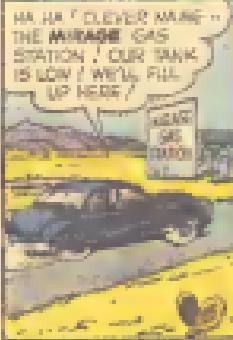
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CAPT. MARVEL

IN BYGONE DAYS, CROSSING THE TREACHEROUS DESERT WAS A TRIP FRAUGHT WITH HAZARD!



BUT TODAY, IN MODERN AMERICA, EVEN THE HARDEST DESERT IS CROSSED WITH CARE AND COMFORT!



STERLING MORRIS, OWNER OF RADIO STATION WWHITE, AND HIS BOY NEWS-CASTER BILLY BUTTERICK ARE RETURNING FROM A BUSINESS TRIP!

LUCKY I'M NOT! YOU ALMOST LOOK JUST A MIRAGE, LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MIRAGE! HA HA!



A FEW MILES FARTHER...



BUT WE JUST FILLED THE TANK! OR DID THAT MAN GYP US AND ONLY PRETENDED TO FILL IT?



WE FILLED UP AT THE LAST GAS STATION!

AS SHARPE AS IT IS!

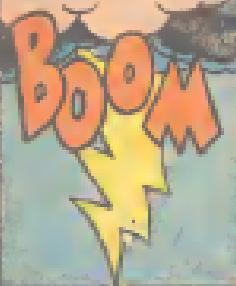
AND TO HAVE MATTERS WORSE FOR THE STALLED CARS, A DESERED PHENOMENON OF THE DESERT SUDDENLY ARISES UP!



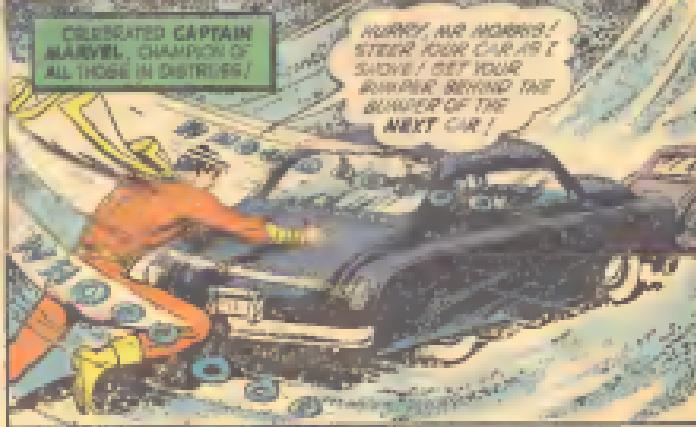
HOLY MOLEY!

SHAZAM!

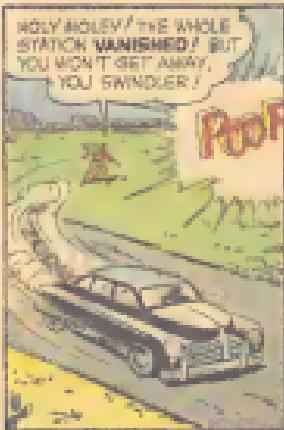
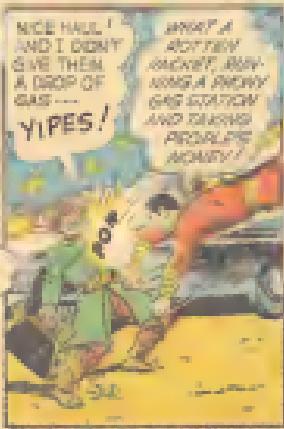
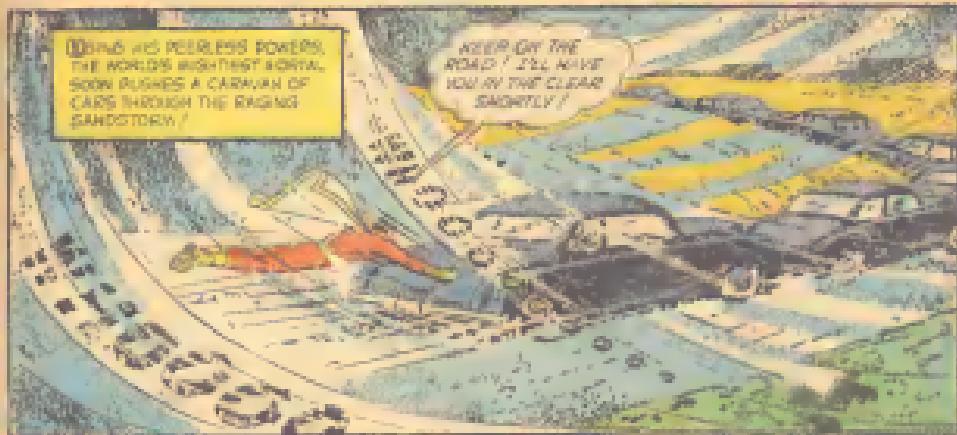
WHEN BILLY UTTERED THAT MYSTIC WORD, MAGIC LIGHTNING BLOWS DOWN FROM THE SKY, AND IN A THUNDERCLAP, THE BOY IS CHAMOISEED INTO HIS OTHER FORM OR...



CELEBRATED CAPTAIN MARVEL, CHAMPION OF ALL THOSE IN DISTRESS!



CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL



Far and wide the Mirage Maker operates, using his uncanny optical illusions to dupe and swindle unwary victims!

WE'LL BUY
CUT YOUR
BIG
GOLD
STRIKE!

THE GOLD IN
MY HAND--
ONLY A
MIRAGE!

A MIRAGE CHAUA
AND MIRAGE BRIDGE--
BUT THEY ALL
PAY UP!

MIRAGE
BRIDGE
MIRRAGE
CHAUA

BRAND
NEW HOUSES
ONLY FIVE
THOUSAND
DOLLARS!
HERE'S MY DOWN
PAYMENT! HOW
CAN I LOSE?

YOU'LL
FIND
OUT,
WHEN
YOU STEP
INTO
YOUR
PHANTOM
HOUSE!



CAPT. MARVEL

BUT THIS AT LAST GIVES CAPTAIN MARVEL A TRAIL TO FOLLOW---A TRAIL OF BROKEN HEARTS AND VICTIMIZED PEOPLE!

"YES CAPTAIN MARVEL! WE BOUGHT A HOUSE, RIGHT HERE---AND IT VANISHED!"

"I'M CHASING BEHIND THAT CROOK NOW!"

BUT TRAVELLING A MOUNTAIN ROAD, THE PHANTOM MAKER SPOTS HIS PURSUER!

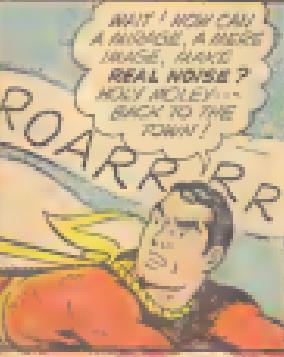
"SO THAT BIG RED MECHLER IS HOUNDING ME EH? I'LL HAVE TO OUTFOX HIM---BUT GOOD!"



BELLOW, THE TOWN IS ALARMED, TOO, AS DROWNING DISASTER THUNDERED DOWN AT THEM!



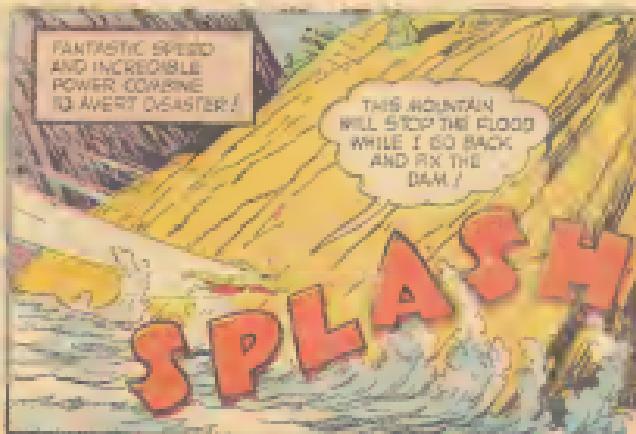
BUT THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN IS ENDOWED WITH BRAIN AS WELL AS BRAVAT!



FANTASTIC SPEED AND INCREDIBLE POWER COMBINE TO AVOID DISASTER!

BUT THE PHANTOM MAKER GLOWS OVER A DIABOLICAL TRICK!

"THAT FLOOD ISN'T A MIRAGE---IT'S REAL! I STARTED IT MYSELF!"



CAPT. MARVEL

SEEING IN ANGER, CAPTAIN ALAN VEL AGAIN PICKS UP THE TRAIL OF THE HEARTLESS MIRAGE MAKER IN ANOTHER ESSAY!

COME ONE, COME ALL! THE
RAFFLING OFF A STRING OF
PRIDELESS PEASUS! /
WHICH BUY A CHANCE?

1878

DRINKING
EDDOO THE LOCAL
TOMTUG
HERE!

I KNOW YOU'RE
NOT THE KIND
TO LIE, CAPTAIN
MARVEL, BUT
MY HANDS ARE
TIED / I CAN'T
ARREST HIM...
NOT WITHOUT
A PROBE /

THIS CALLS
FOR STRAIGHT
SUPPORT HE
GETS AWAY
AGAIN! I'LL
GET THE
GOODS ON HIM
THROUGH
BILLY!



BY REPEATING THE MAGIC WORD,
SHAZAM, CAPTAIN MARVEL
CHANGES BACK TO BILLY AND...

YOU HIDE IN THE REAR
OF HIS CAR / NEXT TIME
HE PULLS A SWINDLE,
CAPTAIN MARVEL
CAN NAME HIS NIGHT
IN THE ACT!



AGAIN THE MUSCLE MAKER HAS PULLED A CRIMING TRICK!

WHY, THEY'RE
REAL! HE'S
NOT TRYING
TO BUMP US!

**BUT--
UH--?**

19. *Leucostoma* (L.) *Leucostoma* (L.)

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“I COVER
MYSELF UP
WITH ALL HIS
ILL-GOTTEN
CLOTH AND
DRAWSKIN.”

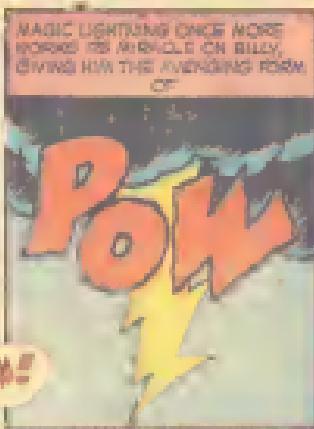


A dynamic comic book panel showing Shazzam in his superhero form, wearing a green suit and a large, ornate golden collar. He is in a crouching position, looking intensely at a character in a yellow suit who is shouting. The yellow-suited character has a speech bubble that reads "A KID SNATCHER! GOT 'EM!" and is shouting "BOOM!" in large, bold letters. Shazzam's own speech bubble says "SHAZZ! OK!".

WHEN
BILLY'S
BLACKOUT
FACES
AWAY, HE
FINDS
HIMSELF
IN A
FRIENDSHIP
THRAP!



CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL

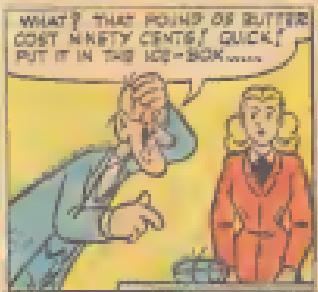
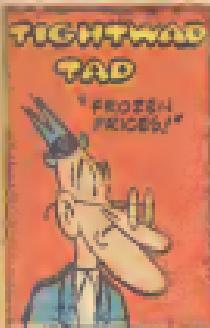
MEANWHILE, REACHING ANOTHER TOWN, THE MIRAGE MAKER CONTINUES HIS CUNNING CAMPAIGN OF SWINGING ILLUSIONS!



BUT THE GREATEST SHOCK OF ALL STAGGERS THE MIRAGE MAKER!



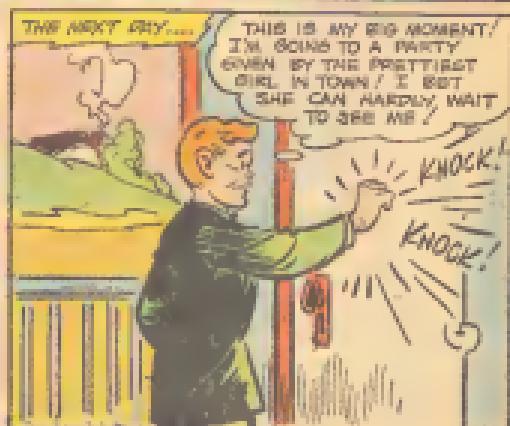
CAPT. MARVEL



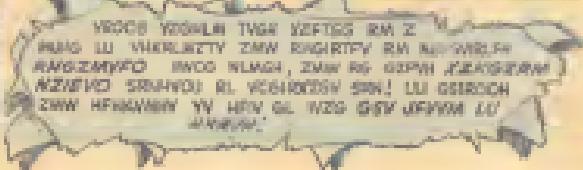
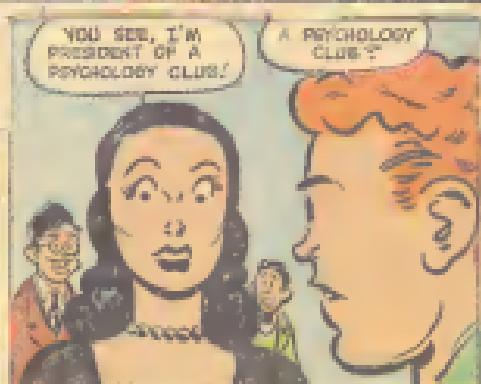


CAPT. MARVEL





CAPT. MARVEL



Captain MARVEL

and THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST CIRCUS

STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! SEE THE AMAZING FIRE EATER! I AM AMUSED BY THE GREATEST JESTER IN THE WORLD! STAND IN LINE BEFORE THE ASTOUNDING HEIGHT LIFTER!

HOLY MOLEY!
HOW MANY DIFFERENT
CIRCUS JOBS
CAN I DO AT THE
SAME TIME?

MAIN TENT

BORR BILLY PATSON AS
FOR ANY YOUNG FELLOW
THIS IS A VERY NICE
DAY! IT IS THE DAY
WHEN THE CIRCUS IS GOING
TO ARRIVE!

GOLLY! I
WAS SURE THE CIR-
CUS WOULD BE HERE BY
NOW! HOW WILL THEY
EVER GET READY
IN TIME?

CAN THEY HAVE BEEN
AWAY? THAT WOULD BE
A TERRIBLE DISAPPOINTMENT
TO EVERYBODY IN TOWN! IT
CAN'T DO ANY HARM IF
I CHECK UP!

THE WORLD'S GREATEST
CIRCUS WILL APPEAR HERE

SHAZAM!

CAPT. MARVEL

WHEN THE BOY BILLY BARRON SPEAKS THE NAME OF THE OLD EGYPTIAN SORCERER, MAGIC LIGHTNING BLADES DOWN TO CHANGE HIM INTO HIS OTHER SELF--THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, CAPTAIN MARVEL!



BILLY CERTAINLY IS ANXIOUS ABOUT THE CIRCUS! BUT I DON'T BLAME HIM MUCH! I WOULDN'T WIND SEEING IT MYSELF!

IF WE DON'T OPEN ON TIME IN THIS NEXT TOWN, WE'RE ALL WASHED UP! I NEED A MONEY-MAKING STAND TO PULL THE CIRCUS OUT OF THE RED!

Meanwhile, as the long line of circus trucks moves slowly along a mountain highway...



I HOPE THERE ARE NO MORE DELAYS! WE'RE WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE ALREADY!

YEAH! ONE MORE BAD BREAK, AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO OPEN IN THE NEXT TOWN!

IN THE LEAD TRUCK, WHERE CIRCUS OWNER JOHN CIRCLE IS RIDING...

MR. CIRCLE! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?



A RUMBLING NOISE, MOUNTING STEADILY IN VOLUME, SIGNALS A DESO AVALANCHE!

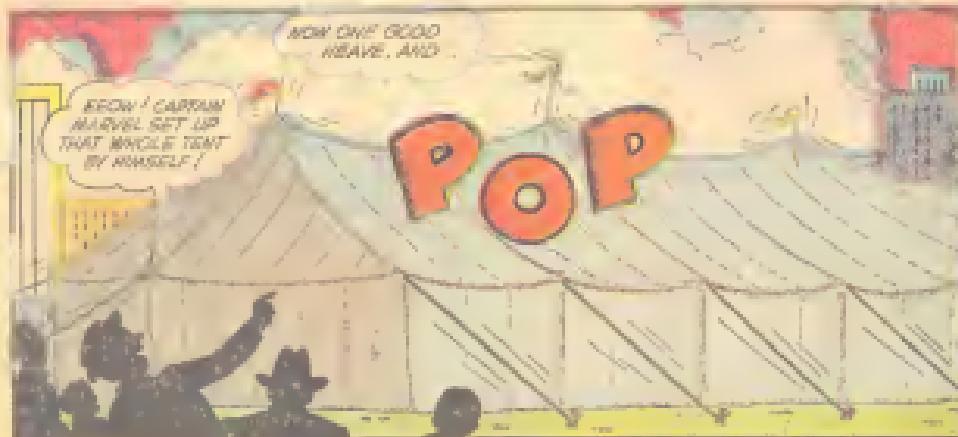
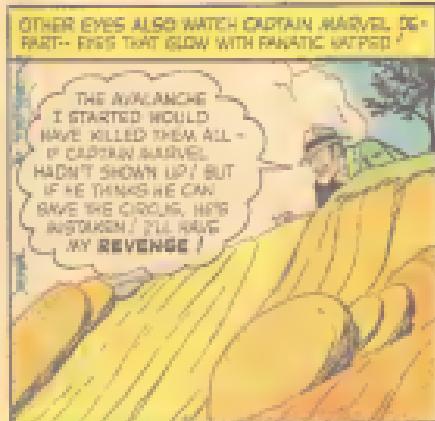
WHAT'S THAT WORLD'S GONE TO US!

THANK HEAVEN FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL!

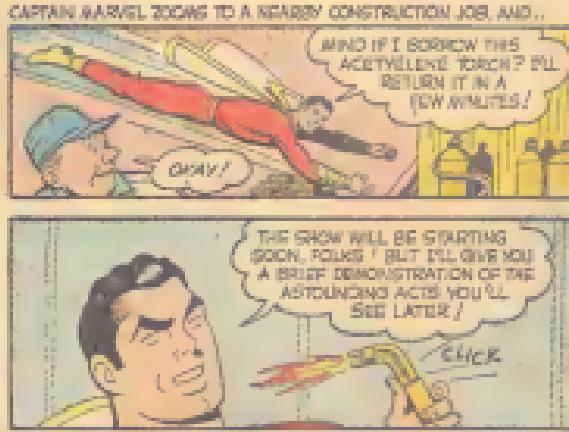
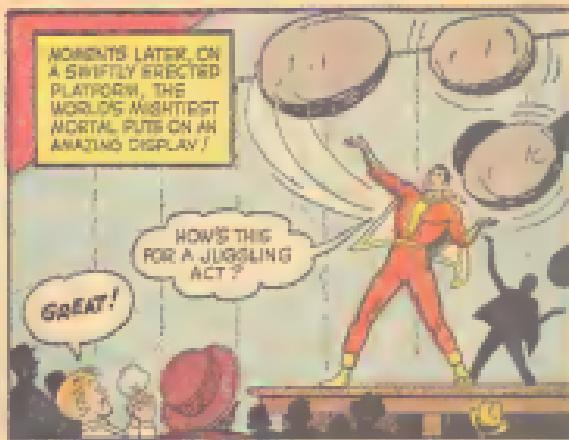


THE RUMBLING FLOAT SAVES A SCORE OF TRUCKS, WITH HUNDREDS OF PERFORMERS FROM INSTANT ANNihilation!

CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL

AS THE CROWD GROWS MORE RESTIVE, CAPTAIN MARVEL PERFORMS EVEN MORE STUPENDOUS FEATS!



AFTER A FLYING VISIT TO THE ZOO...



CAPT. MARVEL



WITH THE BAND PLAYING A LIVELY TUNE, CLOWNS DODGING ACROSTIC STANDS AND FUSE ANIMALS SNORTING A FEARSOME WOOF-WOOFMENT THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN!



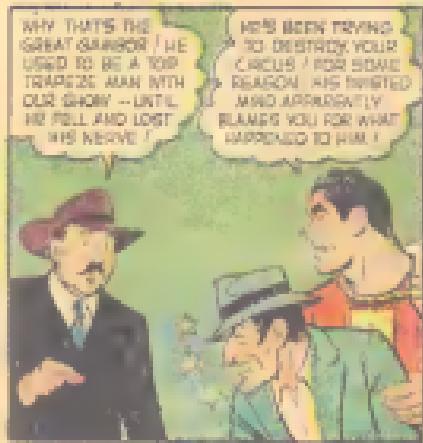
WHY THAT'S THE GREAT GARGOYLE! HE USED TO BE A TOP TRAPEZE MAN INTH OUR SHOW—UNTIL HE FELL AND LOST HIS NERVE!

HE'S BEEN TRYING TO DESTROY YOUR CIRCUS! FOR SOME REASON HIS INSITED MIND APPARENTLY BLAMES YOU FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!

I HEARD ABOUT WHAT YOU DID HERE, CAPTAIN MARVEL! ALL THE CIRCUS PEOPLE DED THEIR JOBS TO YOU! IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN REPAIR YOU?

WHY SO YES! THERE'S SOME K THING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED!

AND SO, LATER...



AND HOW I'VE GOT IT! A LIFETIME PASS TO THE CIRCUS! I'M THE LUCKIEST BOY IN TOWN!

CAPT. MARVEL

Captain MARVEL

FIGHTS THE UNHOLY SPIDER

DOWN A SILKEN WEB CAME A MONSTROUS BEING—A SPIDER, TO ALL APPEARANCE—BUT A SPIDER OF UNEARLY INTELLIGENCE! FOR IN HIS WARY TALONS HE CARRIED A DEADLY HYPODERMIC NEEDLE... AND WHERE HE CRAWLED, THERE CRAWLED DEATH!

DEATH!

HELP!
CAPTAIN
MARVEL—SAVE
ME!

CRASH

COMING, PRO-
FESSOR... HOLY
MOLEY!

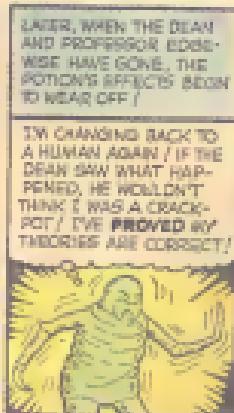
IN A COLLEGE LABORATORY, DR. RUFUS BROWLER REACHES THE CLIMAX OF YEARS OF INTENSIVE STUDY!

THAT POTION I JUST DRANK AFFECTS THE BASIC MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF THE HUMAN BODY! IF MY THEORY IS RIGHT, I SHOULD FEEL ITS EFFECT SOON!

AS THE STRANGE POTION TAKES HOLD, AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION BEGINS! DR. BROWLER'S BODY SHRINKS, CONTRACTS, HIS SKIN WITHERS AND FORMS A CRUSTY SHELL!

IT---IT'S HAPPENING! I'M CHANGING INTO A...

CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL

BUT THE STING OF THE TINY NEEDLE WAKENS THE SLEEPING MAN!



AS BILLY BATSON, BOY BROADCASTER, IS RETURNING FROM WORK ACROSS THE COLLEGE CAMPUS



WHEN BILLY SPEAKS THE NAME OF THE SORCERER, SHAZAM, A BOLT OF MAGIC LIGHTNING BLAZES DOWN, AND WE RECOMBINE.

BooM

THE WORLD'S FIGHTING MAN, CAPTAIN MARVEL!



HE'S UNCONSCIOUS NOW! I'D BETTER RUSH HIM TO A HOSPITAL!



SOON AFTERWARD...

WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD, BUT WE COULDN'T SAVE HIM! THE POISON ACTED TOO SWIFTLY!

HE SAID A SPIDER BIT HIM.



A SPIDER? BUT DEAN CORNISH DIED OF AN INJECTION OF STRYCHNINE!

OH!

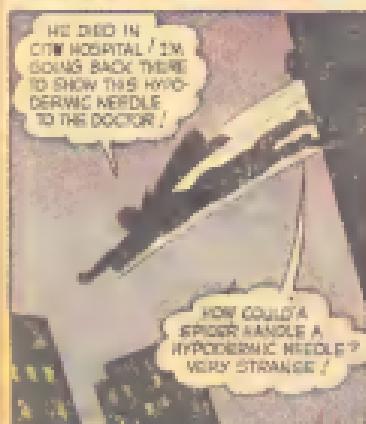


LATER, AS CAPTAIN MARVEL FLIES BACK TO MR. POTTER'S BOARDING HOUSE...

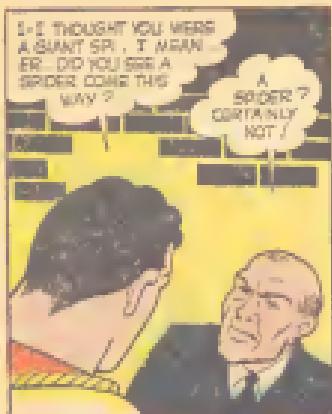
...THERE'S A LIGHT IN PROFESSOR BAGWIGG'S ROOM! I'LL STOP BY AND TELL HIM THE BAD NEWS! HE AND DEAN CORNISH WERE CLOSE FRIENDS!



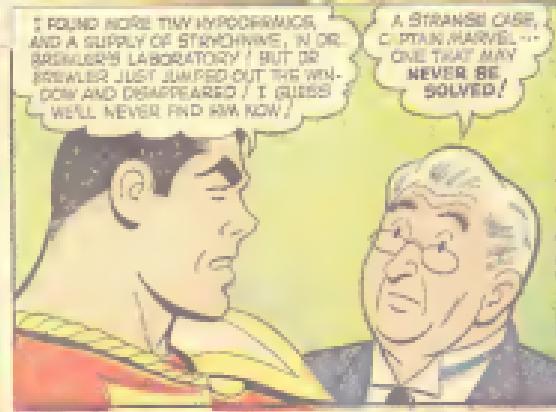
CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL



YES, EVIL DR. RUFUS BREWER WAS RATED TO LIVE ONLY A FEW MORE MOMENTS IN THE FAIR SAFETY OF HIS SPIDER FORM! FOR NO ONE KNEW BETTER THAN HE THAT THE MOST DEADLY CREATURE IN THE WORLD OF THE SMALL IS -- A HUNGRY FEMALE SPIDER, WHO DEVOURS HER OWN MIND WITHOUT MERCY! SO THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST APPEARANCE OF THE SPIDER MAN!

Captain MARVEL

SIVANA AND THE FIRST PEOPLE

BACK FROM AN EON-S-LONG JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE CAME THE FIRST PEOPLE! THEY RETURNED TO FIND THEIR MOTHER, PLANET EARTH, VASTLY CHANGED! AND CAPTAIN MARVEL, EARTH'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, HAS HIS HANDS FULL KEEPING THE RETURNED TRAVELERS FROM BECOMING DUPES OF THE WICKED OLD SCIENTIST, SIVANA!



ONE DAY, IN THE MILIE, NEVERDREW...

SIVANA THREATENS WORLD WITH SECRET NEW WEAPON... HOLY MOLEY! SIVANA IS ABOUT TO STRIKE AGAIN! AND THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN STOP HIM...

SHAZAM!

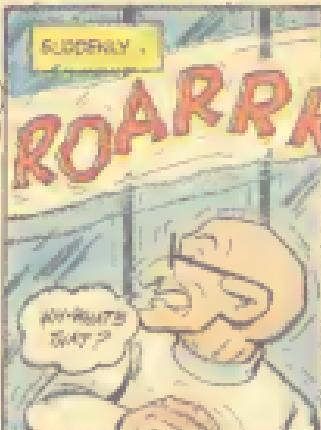
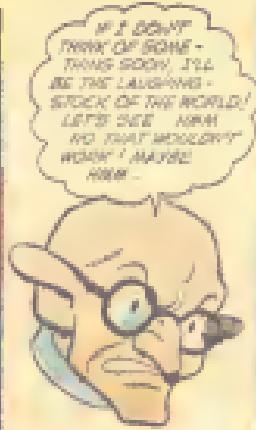
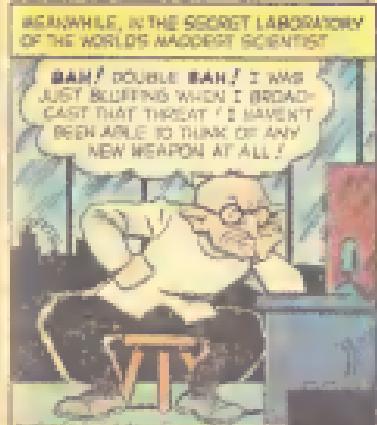
WHEN BOY HERO CASTER BILLY BATSON SPEAKS THE NAME OF POWER, MAGIC LIGHTNING BLAZES DOWN...

...AND THE BOY IS CHANGED TO THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN MARVEL!

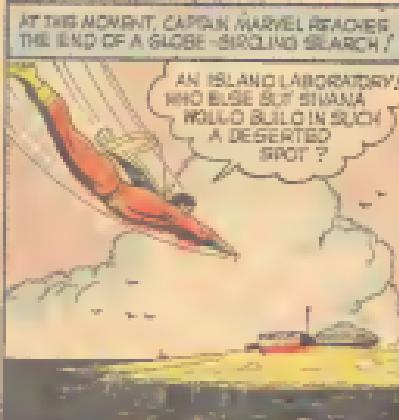
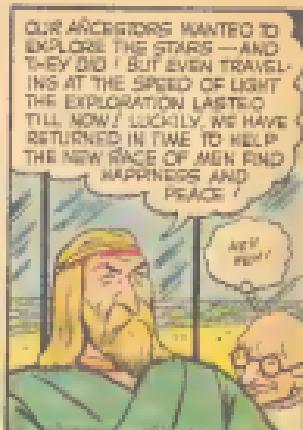
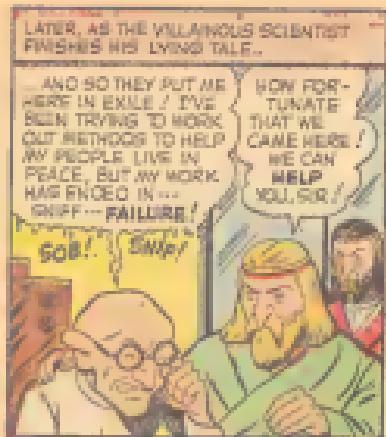
I MUST FIND SIVANA'S HIDE-OUT! I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO USE HIS NEW WEAPON!



CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL

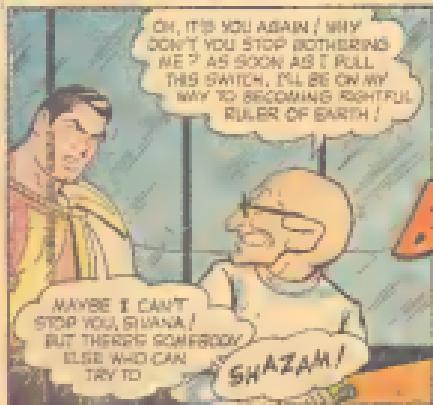
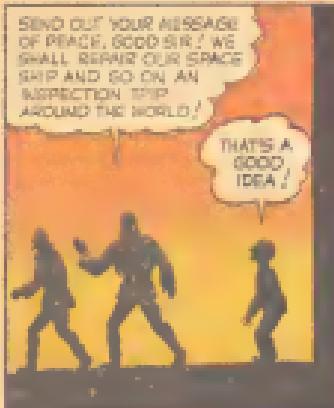


CAPT. MARVEL

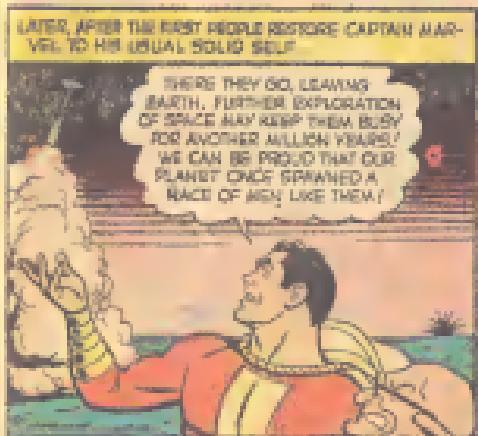


CAPT. MARVEL

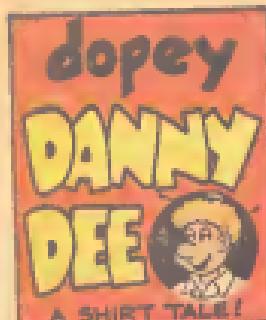
SOME TIME LATER



CAPT. MARVEL



CAPT. MARVEL



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The Space Junkman

(Continued from inside front cover)

shipped from Jupiter to Earth. It's sort of like finding treasure."

Jon nodded. "And of course it's your right to keep it, according to space salvage laws. Anything in this new one, the *Starship*?"

"Let's look," invited the junkman.

They stepped on through the huge hole torn in one side by a meteor. There were no bodies. They had all been blasted out. Most of the interior was smashed debris, but the lower hold was intact. And it was crammed with cargo. Most of it was ordinary bulky stuff of low value, but in one corner was a heavy sack.

The junkman opened it up and screamed in joy. "Jewels!" he yelled. "A small fortune! The *Starship* was carrying these jewels when it cracked up!"

"Bum, didn't you know?" said a new voice behind them.

They whirled. Three grim-faced men were there, holding ray-guns ready. Evidently they had landed secretly and crept up silently.

"Callisto Cal!" gasped Jon, recognizing the bandit leader.

"Right, copper! Now toss me your ray-gun like a good boy—or else!" After Jon helplessly complied, the space crook went on, taunting. "We picked up that radio report about finding the *Starship* wreckage. And we remembered it was carrying jewels. Hand them over!"

Andy Ottman, the junkman, gulped and handed over the sack.

But the bandits did not go. Callisto Cal waved around. "Good business, eh? You're making money—and where is it? You got it piled up somewhere here. Lead us to it, old man—if you want to live!"

Helplessly, the junkman led them toward his hut, where he kept his money. As his men carried it out, Callisto Cal grinned at Jon. "We don't want this space cop following us. So I'll turn my ship into junk, too!"

It was easy. An atomic capsule charge under Jon's ship blew the bottom out. It rolled over on its side, smoking, just junk now like all the other shipwrecks around.

"No gun, no ship," chortled the bandit thief. "How can he follow us now?"

The junkman watched helplessly as the ban-

dit ship roared away with all its loot. "Robbed me blind!" he moaned. "All my hard work for nothing. And you can't chase or stop them, Lieutenant—"

The junkman turned and choked. Jon was not beside him. He was gone!

Later, as the bandit ship sped away, Callisto Cal suddenly dropped the loot he was carrying, seeing the ship following them.

"The junkman's tug!" he rasped. "We forgot that. Is that crazy egg after us with that? But it has no gun!" He laughed. "The fool! Shoot him down—more junk for space!"

But at the controls of the tug, Jon watched tensely, and avoided the first shots that hissed past him. Then he swung the ship around, so that its long cable and electromagnet swung toward the bandit ship. He switched on the power for the huge magnet.

In the bandit ship, just as they had a dead bead on Jon, there was a tremendous jerk as the magnet yanked their ship and clamped it fast.

"Now try to fire!" grunted Jon, "while I swing you all over space like a stone at the end of a string!"

The bandits were tossed and bounced back and forth from the walls as their ship jerked and swan directly.

Later, Jon radioed the junkman in his shack below on the asteroid. "Look out below! Here comes some more junk for you!"

Jon turned off the electromagnet at fifty feet, releasing the bandit ship. It dropped like a stone, cracking open like an eggshell. But it was not a killing drop for the men inside, as they were hung clear in the light gravity of the small asteroid.

Dizzy, groaning, they staggered to their feet.

BEFORE they could recover, Jon was among them like a raging tiger. His hammering fist finished up for him, laying the three space desperadoes out in a neat row.

The junkman of space came up and grinned a bit. "You know, son, we both have the same trade, really. I deal in space junk. You deal in junk, too—human junk!"

THE END

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